



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sprucing Up City Hall for Safety and Customer Convenience

Work is underway to improve the safety, security and customer convenience for visitors to the Falls Church City Hall, 300 Park Ave. New signage has been installed recently to make it easier to navigate around and through the building, new recycling and trash receptacles were placed at the entrances, and the front benches and planter boxes have been power washed. New lights are also planned to illuminate the flag pole.

The next phase of this spring's spruce up project will begin the first week of May with the replacement of the large, overgrown yew hedge that lines the front parking lot with smaller, low maintenance boxwoods. The size of the yew hedge was identified as a safety concern during a recent security audit. The height of the hedge limits visibility and therefore poses a risk for users of the courts and court personnel. City staff reviewed several options to improve the sight lines around the hedge and determined that pruning the nearly six-foot high hedge was not a viable alternative. Elimination of all plants was not an option because the City's zoning ordinance requires that parking lots be screened from view from sidewalks and streets.

The large yew hedge will be replaced with an attractive shrub, the English boxwood, which is already in place at the Cherry Hill Farmhouse and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) garden next to City Hall. English boxwoods grow slowly, will remain shorter than the yews, and will require little maintenance. With the replacement of the tall yew hedge, the park will become more visible and attractive, openings will be made for pathways, and the City Hall front lawn will have more open space for public use.

During replacement of the hedge the first week of the May, there will be some parking disruption. Questions or concerns should be directed to City Arborist Jill-Anne Spence, at 703.248.5183 (711 TTY) or jspence@fallschurchva.gov.

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